

House Bill 689: Establishes Louisiana Statewide Education Facilities Fund



Legislation

- This legislation establishes a fund in the state treasury known as the “Louisiana Statewide Education Facilities Fund” that will be used to provide state level funding for school construction and repairs throughout Louisiana.
- The fund will be used solely by the Louisiana Statewide Educational Facilities Authority (SEFA). Senate Bill 90 creates the Authority and is currently under consideration by the Senate Education Committee.

Background

- In the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, HCR 230 laid out plans for a task force to be convened to study Louisiana’s school facilities and make conclusions and recommendations based on best practices around the nation.
- The HCR 230 Task Force report included information on school facilities management from around the nation that revealed that 41 other states provide funding for school construction and have an authority to oversee and allocate those funds. This report was approved by BESE and submitted to the state legislature.
- In the 2008 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, HB 962 created this fund in conjunction with SB 632, the Louisiana Statewide Education Facilities Authority. Both bills passed committee and the House and Senate unanimously, but were vetoed by Governor Jindal.
- Around the nation, authorities such as what is being considered in Louisiana are funded from a variety of means including sales taxes, corporate taxes, lottery revenues, gaming revenues and direct appropriations from the state legislature.